

SBS Webinar – Call for experts 2022

02 September 2021

Q&A

Question asked by attendee	Answer
<p>Can experts from Serbia apply for this call? (Serbia is a country candidate for EU and also associated country. Serbia is also member of CEN. SMEUnited has a member organization from Serbia. Serbian residents can also participate in Horizon Europe calls.)</p>	<p>We are currently waiting for an answer to this question from the European Commission and will provide the answer as soon as possible.</p> <p>In principle, only residents of EU or EFTA countries can apply. This also means that applicants based in the UK are no longer eligible. Serbia as an associated country and candidate country of the EU might be a special case which is still to be clarified.</p>
<p>Section C of the application form for new applicants: «Indicative list of meetings of the above-mentioned TCs/SCs/WGs » - where do we get the meeting dates from?</p>	<p>On the websites of some standards bodies (ISO, IEC...) there are indicative meeting dates listed under the relevant TC/SC/WG. We understand that in some cases you might not be able to list a “complete” list of meetings which is not a problem. You are expected to fill in this section and give an indication of the dates and/or number of meetings at the best of your knowledge and information you can get.</p> <p>The aim of this question is to make sure the relevant TCs/SCs/WGs is actually active. SBS puts particular attention to ensuring that it does not appoint experts to groups that are not active or where work is not ongoing.</p>
<p>Mirror committees: are we to set them up with our European colleagues?</p>	<p>There are SBS Working Groups for the following topics/sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction - Digitalisation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lifts - Personal Protective Equipment & Textile care - Sustainability <p>Experts who are active in any of these sectors will automatically be part of the respective WG.</p> <p>Experts active in another sector are required to form their own Mirror Committee (MC). The MC should consist of at least three people from different countries with expertise in the relevant field (plus your expert coordinator). It can be the technical committee(s) of the European organisation supporting the expert or a personal network promoting the SME issues in standardisation or contacts of an SBS sector network.</p> <p>Should the expert have difficulties finding members for his/her MC, the SBS Secretariat will support, e.g. by asking the SBS Members.</p> <p>The aim of both SBS WGs and MCs is the same: to exchange information on relevant standardisation and policy developments in the sector, seek advice and agree on a European SME position.</p>
<p>How it is decided who becomes a funded or unfunded expert?</p>	<p>It is for the applicant to indicate in his/her application form whether s/he is seeking a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a paid contract at European level - a paid contract at International level - an unpaid contract <p>As SBS only has a certain budget for experts per year (which is still to be approved by the European Commission and EFTA for 2022), it can only appoint a certain number of experts. So in some cases an expert (even if he/she applied for funding may be contacted to ask whether she/he is willing to accept an unpaid contract instead).</p> <p>Some experts might not seek a funded contract but want to be an SBS expert to benefit from the support of SBS and its network.</p>

<p>Could you please explain in more details the difference between funded and unfunded applications? Does the latter mean that one can apply without the support of an association?</p>	<p>No. Regardless of whether you are seeking a funded or unfunded appointment, your application needs to be supported by a recognised SME association. This is a very important requirement for the application to make sure the applicant represents SMEs. There is no difference between funded and unfunded experts in terms of application, requirements, tasks, selection criteria and necessary documents. The only difference is that funded experts will be paid a lump sum and unfunded experts will not.</p>
<p>Can my employer provide the co-funding?</p>	<p>Yes. Basically, anyone can provide the co-funding: the expert him/herself, the supporting organisation, the employer of the expert, the expert's company...</p>